

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:
at a radio frequency identification device comprising a plurality of data fields:
 - ~~(a)~~ identifying a plurality of data fields;
 - ~~(b)~~ a) transmitting a data symbol comprising a first set of data from a data field;
 - ~~(c)~~ maintaining a data field from which the data symbol was transmitted;
 - ~~(d)~~ b) receiving an acknowledgement symbol comprising a second set of data;
 - ~~(e)~~ c) comparing the first set of transmitted data symbol to the received acknowledgement symbol second set of data; and
 - ~~(f-d)~~ d) repeating steps a-c until data transmission is complete as long as each if the first set of data transmitted data symbol is equivalent to the second set of data a corresponding received acknowledgement symbol, repeating steps b-f until data transmission is complete; otherwise, maintaining the data field from which the last data symbol was transmitted, and temporarily suspending data transmission;
 - e) receiving a request for radio frequency identification devices temporarily suspended in a given data field to resume data transmission; and
 - f) if the data field that was maintained is equivalent to the given data field identified in the request, repeating steps a-d, starting with a first symbol in the data field that was maintained; otherwise, continuing to temporarily suspend data transmission.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of maintaining the data field for a predetermined period of time when power is removed from the radio frequency identification device and subsequently re-applied.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of defaulting to a first data field when power is removed from the radio frequency identification device and subsequently re-applied.

4. canceled

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the radio frequency identification device becomes ~~further comprising the step of becoming~~ inactive when data transmission is complete.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
initializing to a first data field upon power-up;
receiving a request for devices in a given data field to transmit data; and
becoming active only if the first data field is equivalent to the given data field identified in the request.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7 9 further comprising the step of, after the step of transmitting the at least second request, looping through ~~steps b-e~~ the step of receiving, the second step of transmitting, the step of continuing ad the third step of transmitting.

9. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:
transmitting a request to activate a set of ~~tags~~ radio frequency identification devices temporarily suspended in a first ~~state~~ field, wherein the radio frequency identification devices comprise a plurality of data fields;
receiving a set of data symbols;
in response to receiving the set of data symbols, transmitting an acknowledgement symbol;
continuing to transmit an acknowledgement symbol in response to each subsequent set of data symbols received; and
transmitting at least a second request to activate a set of ~~tags~~ radio frequency identification devices temporarily suspended in a second ~~state~~ fields, wherein the first ~~state~~ field is different from the second ~~state~~ field.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of transmitting an excitation signal.

11. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of copying at least a portion of data represented by each acknowledgement symbol into a storage device.

12. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:
copying at least a portion of data represented by each acknowledgement symbol into a first storage device; and
when the first storage device contains a predetermined amount of data, copying the predetermined amount of data into a first location of a second storage device.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of clearing at least a portion of the first storage device upon transmitting a request to activate a group of radio frequency identification ~~tags~~ devices in a given state.

14. (original) The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of copying at least a portion of data represented by each acknowledgement symbol transmitted after the request into the portion of the first storage device that was cleared.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (new) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of transmitting is performed when a predetermined number of sets of data symbols is received.

19. (new) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of transmitting is performed when a set of data symbols is not received in step b.